

UNDER THE BLACK FLAG

How Edward Low Terrorized the New England Coast.

IN THE PALMY DAYS OF PIRACY.

His career was probably the most bloody known in all the dark annals of piracy—some stirring adventures—some of revolting cruelty.

First 20 years of the eighteenth century's golden age of piracy on the American seas, and one of the boldest buccaniers of the period was Edward Low, who, with his crew, terrorized the New England coast, his name in every European col-



FOUND DEAD IN HIS CABIN.

on the western world. According to a contemporary chronicler, which has been quoted by the antiquarian of the 80's, the *Globe-Democrat*, Low was an Englishman and was born under the shadow of the great Westminster cathedral in London.

He entered upon his naval career very early in life, and after following the sea for a number of years drifted to Boston, where he sought to earn an honest living by learning the rigging trade. Business was slow, however, and Low, not being appreciated at the head center of Puritanism, took to the sea again, taking passage in a vessel bound for the bay of Honduras. A short time after reaching this place Low had a difficulty with one of the ship's officers, and a few nights later the watch found the officer dead in his cabin, stabbed through the heart. Low then found it would be conducive to his future health and happiness to make himself as conspicuous as possible. He accordingly left the ship in a small boat with 12 crewmen, who had agreed to follow his desperate fortunes. Putting boldly out to sea, they soon met with a small un-

armed merchantman, which they captured, and running the black flag to the masthead they declared war against the world. The desperate company then determined to make their way up the great highway of commerce along the New England coast. They were not disappointed in their calculations. They had not been on the coast many days before a richly laden Rhode Island schooner hove in sight. Low had her under his guns in a few minutes and after her surrender plundered her and out away the rigging to prevent her carrying the news of the outrage into the coast. He then sailed away to the south, and in this movement he showed wisdom, for notwithstanding her dismantled condition the plundered schooner made her way into Block Island and sent the governor a full account of Low's exploit. The alarm was instantly given, and before many hours two vessels were armed and at sea in search of the bold sea robber. But Low was not to be caught. He was a good distance before the news of his exploit reached the governor, and in a few days the armament returned without having had even a shot at the flying buccaner.

Continuing in a southerly direction until he conceived all danger was over, Low again sailed north until he reached Port Rosemary, where in unsuspecting merchantmen lay at anchor. Dashing in among them with his "bloody ensign" flaunting in the breeze, he ordered their surrender. The terrified sailors instantly hauled down their colors, and after relieving them of all their valuables he sailed away with his hold full of rich plunder.

Soon after this event Low met with a misadventure which came near riding the world of his obnoxious and expensive presence. While near the Azores he took an English vessel, and as a punishment for showing fight he proceeded to butcher the crew as soon as he was able to board her. Among the passengers on board the ill-fated bark were two Portuguese, with whom he indulged some sport for the amusement of his men, swinging the unfortunate fellows up to the yardarm several times and lowering them to the deck before they were dead. While engaged in this refined sport one of his men slashed at a prisoner standing by with a cutlass, and missing his aim smashed Low on the lower jaw, laying open his cheek and exposing his teeth. Upon this the surgeon was called, who immediately stitched up the wound, but Low finding fault with the operation the surgeon, being tolerably drunk, as it was customary for everybody to be, struck Low such a blow with his fist that it broke out all the stitches and threw him sprawling on his face himself and he died—so that Low made a very pitiful figure for some time after.

This accident, however it might have affected his personal comfort, did not abate one bit his brutal energy. A few weeks later, having captured a Portuguese ship, he

turned his guns upon the schooner, put the crew to the severest torture to make them disclose the whereabouts of some treasure which he believed to be on board. Finally, after enduring excruciating torture, the Portuguese captain confessed that while fleeing from the pirate he had hung a box containing 11,000 moidores out of the cabin window and had thrown it into the sea when he saw that capture was inevitable. Low, on receiving this information, raved like a fury, swore a thousand oaths and ordered the captain's ship to be cut off, which he broiled before his face and afterward murdered him and all the crew, being 29 persons.

This exploit seems to have aroused Low's avarice and energy to the highest pitch, and for two months afterward he took vessels of every nationality, having captured among other prizes more than a half dozen ships belonging to New York and Boston. His recent performances whetted his taste for blood, and in almost every case where he met with resistance he sent both ship and crew to the bottom as soon as he could secure whatever spoil she might be carrying. Some of the sport he indulged in at this time showed a brutal originality, which, while unique, was by no means any more pleasing to his victims.

On seizing a New England vessel called the *Amsterdam* Merchant, he proceeded to inflict some peculiar outrages on Captain Willard, the master. He cut off his right ear, slit up his nose, and after threatening several of the captured crew in a sim-

THE ELUSIVE LEOPARD.

He Is Hard to Catch and Not Easy to Kill.

EXCITING ADVENTURES IN INDIA.

The leopard usually prefers flight to a square fight, but when cornered sometimes proves a ferocious customer. Hunting leopards with elephants.

As a rule, a man does not go on leopard shooting as he goes on snipe shooting. Usually the news is brought by some excited and frightened native that a leopard has entered his premises, and after killing a child or a goat or a fowl has hid itself in some shed or outhouse. On such an appeal it is usual to go out to try to kill that leopard. If a companion can be found, it is better for two men to go together than for one man to go alone with only native followers. Almost the first case that I remember to which we were called, says a writer in Longman's, we found that the leopard was concealed in a mat and thatched cow shed, of which the door had been closed upon him. We rather rashly opened the door in order to peep in. There was a rush and a scuffle as the leopard tore the door open wider and jumped out to escape. We were lucky in not being knocked down or even scratched.

But the leopard did not get right away. He foolishly entered another shed, which was promptly closed on him, and we had to begin again. My companion climbed onto the roof with his gun, and an active native got up with him to tear open a hole in the thatch of the roof. I stood on the ground with a clear space before me, in case the leopard should turn out in my direction. The eager crowd of natives, who had come regardless of danger, was induced to retire to a distance, while the noble animal of them climbed up into trees or onto the roofs of the adjacent huts.

One of the swiftest of the packets was the Pennsylvania. She was the largest of the Cincinnati boats and made some splendid records on the Ohio. She was 210 feet long and 31 feet beam. Another fast steamer was the Allegheny. She was not so large as the Pennsylvania, but was almost as speedy. Some of these Cincinnati Packet line boats were sunk, a few burned, and the others were out in the river service.

Besides the Cincinnati company's packets there were several steamers, most of them owned by Pittsburghers, which ran down the river and which had no regular trades, but made trips whenever and wherever there was occasion for their services. They were chiefly to St. Louis and New Orleans, the trip to the last named point being completed in about 20 days. There were a few boats running up the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers. Brownsville was as far up as the slackwater improvements extended on the Monongahela, and Franklin was the head of navigation on the Allegheny, —Pittsburg Post.

A Dardanian Legend of a Bear. Two women, a mother and her little daughter, were one night watching their field of Indian corn—"makies"—against the intrusions of the bears. The mother had to go to her home to prepare the food and ordered her daughter to light a fire outside. While she was doing this a bear came and took her away. He carried her to his den and daily brought her to eat and drink. He rolled a big stone in front of the den whenever he went away on his tours, which the girl was not strong enough to move.

When she became old enough to do this, he used daily to lick her feet, by which they became swollen and gradually dwindled down to mere misshapen stumps. The girl eventually died, and the poor bear, after vain efforts to restore her to life, roamed disconsolately about the fields.—Dr. Leitner in Asiatic Quarterly.

A Leopard Brought Down From Heaven. According to Mohammedan belief, the first copy of the Koran, or Alkoran, their sacred book, was brought down from the highest to the lowest heaven by Gabriel on the mysterious night of Al Khade in the month of Ramadan. This wonderful book, written in heaven and bound in satin, jewels and gold, was communicated to Mohammed at different times during a period of 23 years. This was done, according to Mohammed's belief, either by Gabriel in human shape or by God himself. When Gabriel acted as translator and communicator, he did so with a great sound of music and bells. God appeared either veiled or unveiled during Mohammed's waking hours or during dreams at night.—St. Louis Republic.

Why Not? Apropos of Marion Crawford's remark about our mustached butlers, that they amused him after the shorn ones of England, why won't somebody say our butlers—our American butlers—wear mustaches, and we, when abroad, find it amusing to see the English butlers smooth shaven, and wonder why their masters do not insist that their mouths be covered. Will the time ever come when we will dare to be Americans?

They are great lessons to be learned from the other nations of the world, great models to be studied and wisdom to be got from the experience which the accretion of centuries, concerning which the taste of one cultivated community is as good as that of any other.—New York Times.

Expert Testimony. Miss Elder—This newspaper says it is dangerous for two persons to occupy a hammock at the same time. Miss Giddie—Dear me, I have never found it so.—Detroit Free Press.

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STEAMBOATING ON THE OHIO.

It Was at the Height of Its Prosperity Half a Century Ago.

It was from 1840 to 1855 that steamboating was at its height. Fortunes were made in those years by men who owned and ran boats. There were lots of steamers on the river then. The embryo industries of that period depended on the river entirely, i. e., railroads had only been proposed—not built. About 100 steamboats were built at Pittsburg annually to run on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. This city was noted for the trim crafts it placed on the water, as some of the biggest and best running steamers were built at the headwaters of the Ohio.

The boats of the early steamboating days were all side wheelers. It was not until late that the advent of the stern wheel boats occurred, and when it did they were not looked upon with favor by the denizens of the side wheel craft. The rivermen regarded them as an inferior kind of boat, on whose decks it was beneath the dignity of a first class steamboatman to tread.

The packets were of good size and stoutly built. They were not supplied with swinging stages and steam capstans, and their engines were of iron, not so graceful movement as engines now, and electric lights for steamboats were not even dreamed of. But they served their purpose in making big money for their owners.

There was but one organized packet company running boats down the river from Pittsburg. It was the old Pittsburg and Cincinnati Packet line, and it owned about 25 steamboats, some of which left the Pittsburg wharf daily. Among them were the Buckeye State, the Hibernia, Pittsburg, Crystal Palace and Pennsylvania. These boats were all stoutly built and especially adapted for fast running. The laws relating to racing were not so stringent then as now, and exciting contests of speed on the river occurred daily.

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CLIMATE AND CROPS.

HOW THE FOOD SUPPLIES OF THE EARTH ARE REGULATED.

Agriculture is the Basis of All Subsistence, but the Most Thirsty Settled People Are Not by Any Means the Most Fertile. Java's Population.

How much rain is there still on the earth for mankind? This is a question which is often raised and which is answered in a great many different ways. As all food is either directly or indirectly derived from the vegetable kingdom, and the plants need the light and the heat of the sun, the question as to how the light and heat are distributed is an important one. If we assume (which is true) that only 60 per cent of the heat of the sun reaches the earth, the remainder being absorbed by the atmosphere, then latitudes 20 degrees north and south will receive 92 per cent; 40 degrees north and south, 68 per cent; 60 degrees north and south, 40 per cent, and the poles only 17 per cent of the heat received at the equator. Therefore the countries which on account of the amount of heat received are in the most favorable circumstances to produce a great amount of vegetable food lie in the tropics, provided the other condition of plant life is found—that is, dampness.

In Europe people were particularly impressed with the information communicated by Humboldt, on his return from his American journey, concerning the great amount of food furnished by the banana in tropical countries. It was later proved, however, that the distinguished naturalist was mistaken, first, in ascribing so high a state of productivity to the banana, and, second, because the banana is not generally suitable to be used as the principal food for man. As the grains are cultivated wherever agriculture is advanced, in the damp parts of south and east Asia we find rice, in the dry parts of India and the greater part of tropical Africa, millet and sorgho, and in tropical America, principally corn.

The banana is even less fitted to furnish the staple food than the potato. As an accessory, however, like the potato in the wealthy countries of Europe and North America, it is very important. As a dense population is only possible where there is a certain amount of cultivation, we must keep in mind the experience of many thousand years and accept the grains as the basis of nourishment.

The Little Antilles and Mascarene islands are of intense fertility and export a great deal of sugar and import not only industrial products, but a good deal of foodstuff. The ground, therefore, does not directly nourish the population. Several parts of India export foodstuffs, and there is no trustworthy information as to the interior commerce in these products. Tonquin has too lately been annexed to France to obtain trustworthy statistics. Java, with Madura, is alone suited to our statistical necessities.

This country is sufficiently large, it furnishes good statistics of agriculture and commerce, and the imports and exports are carefully registered. The population is about as dense as in Belgium and Saxony, but life is supported under very different circumstances. Saxony and Belgium import foodstuffs and export mineral and manufactured products. Java imports a very small amount of rice and salt fish and exports many more agricultural products. It not only supplies its own people with food, but finds it possible to buy mineral and manufactured products. It might be supposed that this immense population would be divided in a certain proportion on the island, and either that its increase would be small, as in France and Belgium, or else there would be a large emigration, as from Great Britain or Germany.

Neither case is true. Emigration is scarcely known. The population increases at the rate of 1 per cent a year, and its distribution varies so greatly that in the eastern part there are fewer people than in the western province of Minsk, in Russia, and in the central part there are almost twice as many people as in Belgium and Saxony, and yet 80 per cent of the population in this part of the island live by agriculture. Rice is the staple, and the statistics give 238 kilograms to each inhabitant. Only about 15 per cent of the surface of the island is devoted to the culture of rice. This is still in a very primitive state, but the government has taken it up, and the production will be greatly increased. Java is a mountainous country, but these mountains are not high, and the rainfall is great, and rice can be cultivated on 30 per cent of the surface for the first crop and 10 per cent for the second. We have therefore a possible extension of the cultivation of rice to 5,200,000 hectares. An average crop to this amount of acreage would support 9,600,000 people.

The surface of Java could be divided in this manner: Thirty per cent of the water surface would produce rice, vegetables, breadfruit and agricultural exports. Fifteen per cent, not watered, would produce breadfruit and agricultural exports; eight per cent, not watered, coffee and tea plantations; two per cent, watered, sugar cane. There would then be left 45 per cent for forests, gardens, meadows, waters, roads and dwellings. The people of Java need not then be condemned to live on rice alone. Fruits are very important and necessary for health, and in Java alone are found 100 different kinds. Cattle can be easily raised, and the superabundant numbers of water plants, insects and worms that are found in tropical countries furnish an easy means of feeding fish and fowls. We find therefore that in this country 800 men could find support on one square kilometer, or more than four times as many people as are now there.—Alex. von Wolkoff in Breslan Deutsche Revue.

A Poor. "What a methodical fellow you are, Dobbie!" said Filkins, who had stepped into Dobbie's office during the latter's absence. "Why, what do you mean?" asked Dobbie.

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DEFINITIONS OF A LAUGH.

Pat Expressions Concerning an Act of Which Most People Are Guilty.

A London weekly paper, *Tit-Bits*, offered a prize of ten dollars for the best definition of a laugh. The money was awarded for the following:

An eruption of joy, relieved by an explosion at the mouth of "the crater." Here are some of the best definitions submitted:

That by which mirth pays a compliment to wit.

The merry thunder peal which follows the lightning flash of wit.

An outward indication of inward satisfaction.

The physical expression of a pleasurable mental emotion.

An antidote against the poison of melancholy.

As brevity is the soul of wit, so a laugh is the soul of expression.

If "Laugh and grow fat," as we have been told, is a proverb undoubtedly true and old, we cannot be wrong if a laugh we define as the very best condiment when we all dine.

The music of the merry, the croak of the scornful and the wail of the maniac.

The outward visible sign of an inward invisible tickle.

The natural ebullition of a joyous heart.

A burst of music from the harp of mirth, produced by the touch of humor.

The "Volapuk" of mirth and good nature.

The keynote of man's character, the tone of which proves its quality.

An appreciation of humor conveyed without speech.

A cheerful report from the interior.

Nature's mental medicine. Used sparingly it acts as a pleasant tonic, but when resorted to moderately it paralyzes and degrades the senses.

A temporary relaxation from gravity.

The only family doctor who gives relief in all cases, often effects instantaneous cure and sends no bills.

Merriment's wand, but derision's dart.

One of God's greatest blessings for temporarily relieving the monotony of our existence.

Heaven's best antidote to care.

The luxury of health and the greatest help to digestion.

What a woman is fond of doing when she has got a new set of false teeth.

Nature's tonic for mental ailments.

The best doctor and the cheapest medicine in the world.

A spark from the fire of life.

The spray from the fountain of mirth, or a bubble from the well of scorn.

The sunshine of the heart reflected in the face.

The safety valve of mirth, the pond of derision and the mockery of despair.

An ostentatious display of one's own sense of humor.

The oil which makes the lamp of life burn bright and clear.

The explosion produced by a flash of wit.

A Tamed Lion. At the Zoo a young lion from Sokoto was much intent on breaking in the iron shutter which separates the house it now occupies from its former quarters next door. Apart from the very proper wish to assert a right to its former domicile, it had the irritating stimulus supplied by an ill tempered and decrepit old leopard which was growing on the other side of the shutter, and even went so far as to insert one of its longest teeth into the crack between the shutter and the wall as a reminder to the lion of what was waiting for it on the other side.

The lion was striking constant heavy blows on the door, and was so intent on its occupation as to disregard the call of its keeper. The keeper quietly attracted its attention by pulling its tail—and the lion at once desisted, rubbed its face against the keeper's hand and lay down to be stroked, patted and have its mane caressed. A very beautiful puma color by exhibited all the pleasure of a friendly cat at being stroked, and the tiger from Turkestan allowed himself to be fondled like a big dog.—London Spectator.

A Cordial Reception. Early one morning, recently, I called to see a gentleman who had not yet left his bed. I was met at the door by a woman whose sleeves were rolled up, who wore an ample apron upon which were various spots of flour and whose face was not entirely free from similar spots. It was "bake day," but she did not embarrass me by any reference to the fact or any apology as to her appearance. She asked me into the parlor and after sending one of the children upstairs to notify the father of my presence, re-entered the parlor and chatted until her husband appeared about various topics in an entertaining, easy manner, quite as though she had been expecting me and was all fixed up to receive me. It was simply delightful and my great grief is that I have no sufficient excuse to make another early morning call at the same home.—Detroit Free Press.

A Way of Cooking Rodents. The negro slaves of Jamaica used to regard rats as a dainty, their masters not providing them with any other meat. Their method of cooking the toothsome rodents was to impale each one on a long wooden skewer, after cleaning the animal and cutting off the tail, turning it briskly around over a fire until the hair was all burned off. Then it was scraped until free from fur, and finally the end of the skewer was stuck into the ground, inclined toward the fire, until it was toasted dry and crisp, thus being made ready for the meal.—Washington Star.

Stockings Kept Black. Black stockings are apt to assume a greenish look after repeated washings. We are told that a simple way of preserving the color is to wash them in soap free of soda, and in the last rinsing water to add a tablespoonful of good vinegar. Wring them out and clap them into shape. A hot iron tends to destroy the color, particularly if they are wet.—New York Journal.

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NATURAL RAINFALL.

DOES NATURE BRIGHT LAND IF TREES HAVE BEEN REMOVED?

A Problem That the Son of Columbus Started Out to Solve—Many Scientists of Various Countries Have Given the Subject Much Study.

A son of Christopher Columbus once undertook a task of discovery that proved much more difficult than that which his father had tackled so successfully. In a comparatively short time Christopher had the solution of his problem. The answer which his son, Fernando, set out to find is still missing. But the younger Columbus thought he had discovered the true relation of forest to water supplies, and he announced that the copious rainfall of Jamaica was produced by the island's wealth of forests and that the decrease of rain in the Azores and Canaries was because of the removal of the wooded areas.

As a thing perhaps as men have given any thought to this matter it has been the common position that forests increase the rainfall within the area of their supposed influence, and in that way and other ways augment the flow of brooks and rivers. The earlier efforts to determine through scientific methods whether there is any good ground for the supposition were made with appliances so crude that the margin for error must have been considerably in excess of the influence, if any, which the investigators hoped to measure. In later years efforts in the same direction have been made with great success, mostly in European countries, but the problem has been found to have so many factors that, although the mass of information collected is extremely interesting, the main question remains practically unanswered. The results of these efforts, together with some interesting observations thereon, are set forth in a bulletin of the forestry division of the department of agriculture.

Water comes as near being indestructible as any substance of which we know. Consequently the total quantity of it in the earth and in its atmosphere is always the same. Only a very small percentage of it is what one of the writers in this bulletin terms the circulating part of the earth's water capital. The sun makes vapor of water that is lying at its level or is on the way to find its level. This vapor is condensed and falls as rain, and the air and water starts again toward its level, and that is how the circulation goes on. In what way does the presence of forests influence this circulation?

It would be a long story to tell of the methods employed in France, Germany, Sweden, Austria and other countries of Europe to measure the various influences that must be considered in determining how and to what extent the rainfall and the flow of streams are affected by the presence of forests. A very important factor, since heat is what starts the movement of the earth's circulating water capital, is the matter of temperature, and the results of the investigations seem to show beyond dispute that forests reduce the maxima and the minima of temperature, that they reduce the maxima more than the minima, and that consequently their effect is to make the average temperature for the year cooler.

Also, their moderating influence in greater or their cooling effect. Because the air above forest regions is slightly cooler than the strata over treeless tracts, condensation should be more rapid than over open fields, and the rainfall should be increased. The water capital of a tract, being blown over adjacent regions that are not wooded, should also increase somewhat the precipitation there. That is the theory, and it seems to be in some degree supported by the measurements that have been made.

Accepting the conclusion that, in general, forests increase slightly the fall of rain, snow and dew, it remains to be determined how much of this increase is available for beneficial purposes. Part of it is intercepted by foliage, and is returned to the atmosphere by evaporation without having reached the ground. The quantity so retained varies with the nature of the foliage, the density of the forest and the season of the year. The retention by evergreen trees is less than by deciduous. It is estimated that perhaps 20 per cent of the precipitation is thus intercepted and returned to the atmosphere. Of course this interception and evaporation go on where the surface of the earth is covered by grass and other growing crops. Whether it is sufficiently greater in the forest than in the field to do away with the excess of precipitation on wooded tracts over that on cleared areas is an unsettled question.

Of the 70 per cent of rainfall which, it is estimated, reaches the ground in forests, a part is very quickly returned to the atmosphere by evaporation, but here the loss is considerably less than in the open field. Under certain conditions it is not more than 12 per cent of what it would be on bare soil, but the conditions are so various that it is difficult to arrive at an average. Again, out of this 70 per cent of precipitation which reaches the ground in wooded areas must be deducted the loss by transpiration, "the process by which the plants give off the surplus water after having drawn it from the soil in order to extract from it the nutriment which is present in only a very highly attenuated solution." Various ingenious methods have been resorted to for determining the amount of moisture used in this way, but because of the many factors having to do with it, the amount for the various kinds of vegetation can be indicated only with a wide margin for variations.

While as it stands now nobody can say, as a result of scientific investigation, whether forests increase the fall of rain, snow or dew to an appreciable extent, there is no room for doubt that wooded areas are valuable conservators of moisture. In this way they make the flow of streams more even, and they preserve the constancy of springs. In the arid areas a loss by interception and evaporation in the foliage and by transpiration, and there is a considerable gain in the protection from evaporation from the surface of the ground. It is not probable that this conservation of the water supply comes anywhere near the mark drawn by those who hold that the